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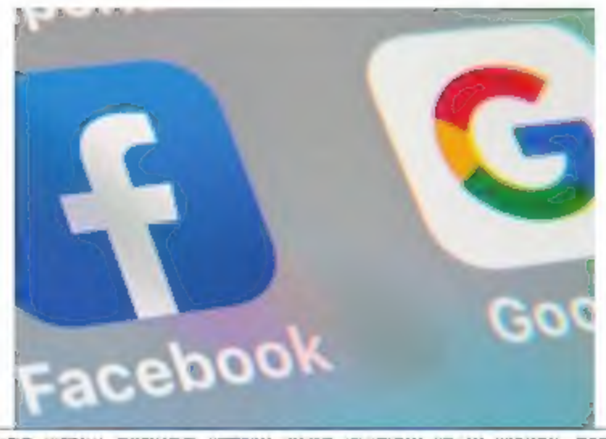

Officials of FB, Google depose before Parl panel

Facebook and Google representatives on Tuesday deposed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT over the issue of social media misuse, with sources saying they were told to comply with the new IT rules, government instructions and court orders. Meanwhile, in more trouble for Twitter, two FIRs were lodged in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh against officials of its India office over the social media site putting up a distorted map of India. P9

Moderna gets emergency use nod

Cipla to import the US jab; mass rollout after safety assessment on first 100 doses

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

US-based Moderna on Tuesday got emergency use authorization under India's revised regulatory norms, which allow Covid vaccines approved in certain nations to enter the country without bridging trials. With this, the number of Covid vaccines cleared for use in India has risen to four. Moderna is the first vaccine to get clearance under the revamped regime.

Mumbai-based pharmaceutical firm Cipla will import the vaccine, which has shown 90% efficacy. It is, however, still not clear when the messenger RNA-based vaccine will be available in India and in what quantity.

The vaccine can be stored at 2-8 degree Celsius for a month while the vial is unopened, but needs to be stored at -20 to -25 degree Celsius for medium- and long-term storage, which makes the logistics requirement very challenging. Its two doses have to be administered 28 days apart.

The development comes even as the Centre is yet to take a decision on the demand of indemnity put forth by Moderna, along with another company Pfizer whose coronavirus vaccine is also looking to enter the Indian market.

According to sources in the apex drug regulator, as per the modified rules, the Covid-19 vaccine by Moderna will still need to be administered to 100 people first for the safety assessment and the report will be examined after seven days before mass vaccinations are carried out.

"We are pleased to inform that Moderna vaccine has been approved in India today through an Indian partner and it opens the pathways for the vaccine's availability in the country soon," said V K Paul, member health, Niti Aayog, in a press briefing on Tuesday, shortly after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation meeting in which the application by Cipla was cleared.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 28: 48,01,465 doses

June 29: 33,79,525 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 33,25,81,423

KARNATAKA	JUNE 28	JUNE 29
Fresh cases	2,576	3,222
Recoveries	5,933	14,724
Deaths	93	93

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 28	JUNE 29
Fresh cases	46,148	37,566
Recoveries	58,578	56,994
Deaths	979	907

Manipal Hospitals launches Sputnik drive

Manipal Hospitals on Tuesday began administering Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, while launching a Covid vaccination drive for members of the transgender community at its Old Airport Road branch. The drive, which is on till July 3, will also see Covishield and Covaxin shots. P4

CM BSY backs Suresh on SSLC examination; Sudhakar on backfoot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS a major lack of coordination among State cabinet ministers over Covid-related issues came out in the open, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday launched into firefighting yet again. He clarified that the decision to hold SSLC exams was not unilateral.

The CM's defence of Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar was in view of Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar's public statement that he wasn't aware of the decision to hold board exams for SSLC students. Suresh Kumar on Monday announced dates for the exams and within hours, Sudhakar said his colleague hadn't spoken to him about it, suggesting that the decision may have been taken unilaterally.

"Suresh Kumar held discussions with me before deciding on SSLC exam dates. The decision was taken only after a thorough discussion, keeping the welfare of students in mind. This wasn't a unilateral decision. It is unnecessary to create confusion," tweeted Yediyurappa from his official handle.

This public declaration comes as an embarrassment to Sudhakar, who is already sulking over being purportedly sidelined in key decisions. Ever since Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan was made the Chief of Covid Task Force, tensions have been simmering between the two leaders over key issues. While Sudhakar has been pushing for a strict lockdown, Ashwath Narayan wants opening up of all sectors with norms. The two ministers have been taking contradictory views on vaccines, members in the expert committee, medicines, oxygen augmentation etc. P3

INSTANCES THAT HAVE FUELLED TENSION BETWEEN MINISTERS

- Appointment of Dr CN Ashwath Narayan as head of the Covid task force
- Opening of theatres, swimming pools and malls during the pandemic
- Vaccine supply and stock
- Appointment of members for new expert committee on the Covid third wave
- Appointment of S M Jayakara as the interim vice-chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences

B'LURU

2ND IN VAX DELIVERY

The city stands second in the number of vaccine doses administered so far among metropolitan cities. Currently, Delhi stands at Number One with 75.4 lakh doses being administered.

EXPRESS READ

Amitabh Kant gets extension as Niti CEO

New Delhi: Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant was on Tuesday given one-year extension till June 2022, according to a Personnel Ministry order. This is a third extension for the 65-year-old civil servant. He was appointed as the CEO of Niti Aayog on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term.

FINGER OF SUSPICION ON LeT; PM HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL MEET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar/New Delhi

AMID the security establishment's assessment that it was the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that was behind the twin drone strikes on an IAF base in Jammu two days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a high-level meeting with defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union home affairs minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

J&K police chief Dilbag Singh pointed his finger of suspicion directly at the LeT, saying it is widely using drones for supplies to its terror operatives. He also said that the drones that attacked the Jammu airbase possibly came from Pakistan. "The drones are suspected to have come from across (the border) but we are still probing as of now," he said. Laskhar's role has been established in most cases of arms smuggling through drones along the Line of Control and the International Border in J&K, he added.

Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency on Tuesday formally took over probe into the airbase attack. Two NIA teams — one from Jammu and the other from Delhi — were already part of the investigation since Sunday. An NIA spokesperson termed the twin blasts as "a well-planned conspiracy".

At the meeting chaired by Modi, the security establishment deliberated on futuristic challenges in the defence sector and on "equipping our forces with modern equipment", sources said. Policy matters on security were discussed, they added but refused to elaborate.

Sources said security agencies have not found any debris of the drones used in the IAF station attack. "Had the debris been found, we could have detected their point of origin and the route from their GPS coordinates. It is believed that the drones were not self-destructive and probably returned to their source after dropping two explosives, including RDX, injuring two IAF personnel," a highly placed source told *TNIE*.

England's Harry Kane (r) celebrates the team's second goal against Germany at Wembley on Tuesday | AFP

GERMANY FAIL ENGLISH TEST

Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane fired England into the quarter-finals of Euro 2020 as they sealed a 2-0 win against Germany and ended decades of hurt at the hands of their arch-rivals on Tuesday.England notched up their first knockout stage victory over Germany since the 1966 World Cup final | P15

Database delay on migrants unpardonable, says SC

More than one-fourth of India's population

The plea was filed by activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar. Quantifying the migrant workers, the court said the NSO put it around 38 crore in 2017-18. That works out to more than 1/4th of India's population

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday described as unpardonable the Centre's apathy towards creating a portal for a national database on unorganised workers, and directed its setting up by July 31 so that all migrant workers register and get the benefits of various central and state welfare schemes.

"When the unorganised workers are waiting for registration and are waiting to reap the benefit of various welfare schemes of the states and Centre, the apathy and lackadaisical attitude by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is unpardonable," the 80-page judgment by justices Ashok Bhushan and M R Shah read.

CONTINUED ON: P10

SC: Decide bail in Gauri case uninfluenced by HC order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a notice to the Karnataka government on an appeal filed by filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh, challenging the Karnataka High Court order quashing charges under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) against one of the accused in the murder case of her sister and journalist **Gauri Lankesh**.

According to the plea, Mohan Nayak, accused number 6 in the case, is relying on the impugned judgement to seek bail. The order on Nayak's bail plea is expected before the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday.

The bench comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Aniruddha Bose observed that the bail application should be decided uninfluenced by the impugned judgement. The petitioner's lawyers argued that the Special Investigation Team, constituted to probe the Gauri's murder, had clearly indicated that the accused were involved in an organised crime syndicate, which attracted KCOCA charges.

CONTINUED ON: P7

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister
PENSION SCHEME
FOR REGISTERED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
The board is providing monthly pension for registered construction workers who have completed 60 years of age.
Shri Arabail Shivaram Hebbar, Hon'ble Minister of Labour distributing food kits to workers during covid-19 pandemic.
Monthly pension of ₹ 2000/-
Application to be submitted in the following website:
https://serviceonline.gov.in/karnataka/
Eligibility
Should have completed 60 years of age.
Should be registered with the board for not less than 3 years.
Registration should be active.
Documents required
Attested copy of Identity card (Labour Card) issued by the Board.
Employer Certificate.
Attested copy of Aadhar Card.
Age Certificate.
Bank Account Details.
Living Certificate.
For more Information Contact: 155214
Labour Officers and Senior Labour Inspectors / Labour Inspectors, Department of Labour
https://karbwwb.karnataka.gov.in /workerswelfare /kbocwwb /workersBoard
Let's follow the Covid-19 guidelines and win the battle against Corona
Wear Mask
Wash Hands Frequently
Maintain Social Distancing
Dr. G. Kalpana, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Department of Labour
Akram Pasha, IAS, Labour Commissioner and C.E.O. of KBOCWWB
DIPR/KBOCWWB/25/2021-22